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Press Release

Press Release Announcement – January 21, 2003 – For Immediate Use

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Pennsylvania Milk Production Down 2 Percent in December

HARRISBURG --- Milk production in **Pennsylvania** during December 2002 totaled 894 million pounds, down 2.0 percent from last December's production, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS). The number of milk cows in the state during the month averaged 590,000 head, down 1,000 from November and 2,000 head less than December 2001.

Production per cow averaged 1,515 pounds in December, 55 pounds more than November, but 25 pounds less than in December 2001.

Milk production in the **20 states surveyed** during December 2002 totaled 12.2 billion pounds, up 1.8 percent from production in these same states in December 2001. November revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds, was up 1.4 percent from November 2001.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major states was 7.80 million head, 47,000 head more than December 2001 and 6,000 head more than November 2002.

Production per cow in the 20 major states averaged 1,567 pounds for December, 18 pounds above December 2001.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 41.5 billion pounds, 1.7 percent above the October-December period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.15 million head, 43,000 head more than the same period last year.